

PTE Academic

Test Taking Strategies

Vikki Weston, Vessela Gasper



Copyright © Pearson Education Ltd 2011

Project Editor: Vessela Gasper

Editor: Jessica Wang

Designer: Paul Chan

Reviewer: Stella Bunnag

Introduction

These self-study lessons have been designed to provide you with specific test taking strategies for each item type in PTE Academic.

There are 20 lessons, each of which focuses on three strategies that you can apply when responding to a particular PTE Academic item type. The series lessons follows the order of the actual test, and each one takes a step-by-step approach to introducing and practicing the item type strategies:

- You read a brief introduction to the item type and study an example item.
- You read brief definitions of the three strategies for the item type.
- You read a detailed explanation of each strategy and practice them in guided activities.
- You respond to an item simulating the test conditions, in which you will give your response within a time limit.
- You compare it to authentic sample responses and read explanations.

After completing all the lessons, you will have practiced all item types in PTE Academic using authentic test items.

Most of the lessons include two items – one in the practice section to illustrate the different strategies in controlled activities, and one at the end of the lesson where you make an attempt at providing responses under timed conditions, simulating the actual test. Each lesson includes the test items with accompanying transcripts, sample responses and answer keys on separate pages. You may also need to look for additional test preparation materials based on the suggestions for activities targeting each strategy.

Mp3 audio files are provided for both the item prompts and the sample responses.

Although the strategies have been specifically developed to help you achieve better results on PTE Academic, they can also help you improve general academic English proficiency.

The lessons can also be used with the *Official Guide to PTE Academic*, which provides a more detailed description of each item type and additional practice items in the guide itself and on the accompanying CD-ROM. You can refer to the Task sections in the *Official Guide* to learn more about the features of each item type. You can also respond to more items from the *Official Guide*.

Summary

The table below gives an overview of the sequence of the lessons, and provides the relevant pages in the *Official Guide*. We suggest that you spend at least 30-60 minutes on each lesson.

Lesson	PTE Academic Item Type	Related pages in <i>The Official Guide to PTE Academic</i>	Suggested time
1	Read aloud	pp. 36–40	60 minutes
2	Repeat sentence	pp. 41–43	60 minutes
3	Describe image	pp. 46–50	60 minutes
4	Re-tell lecture	pp. 51–56	60 minutes
5	Answer short question	pp. 57–60	30 minutes
6	Summarize written text	pp. 69–73	60 minutes
7	Write essay	pp. 74–79	60 minutes
8	Reading: Multiple-choice, choose single answer	pp. 87–92	50 minutes
9	Reading: Multiple-choice, choose multiple answers	pp. 93–98	30 minutes
10	Re-order paragraphs	pp. 99–103	60 minutes
11	Reading: Fill in the blanks	pp. 104–107	40 minutes
12	Reading & writing: Fill in the blanks	pp. 108–112	50 minutes
13	Summarize spoken text	pp. 122–127	60 minutes
14	Listening: Multiple-choice, choose multiple answers	pp. 128–132	40 minutes
15	Listening: Fill in the blanks	pp. 133–137	60 minutes
16	Highlight correct summary	pp. 138–142	60 minutes
17	Listening: Multiple-choice, choose single answer	pp. 143–147	30 minutes
18	Select missing word	pp. 148–151	60 minutes
19	Highlight incorrect words	pp. 152–156	60 minutes
20	Write from dictation	pp. 157–160	40 minutes

If you have any specific feedback about the self-study lessons or queries about other test preparation resources provided by Pearson for PTE Academic, you can contact us in the following ways:

- Use our online form
- Telephone us on +44 845 543 0243
- Fax us on +44 20 7010 6611
- Write to us at the Language Testing Division of Pearson, 80 Strand, London WC2R 0RL, UK